

~~SECRET~~

20-8378

14 September 1955

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**  
**SUBJECT: Brainwashing**

1. The study project entitled "Brainwashing, A Psychological Viewpoint," prepared by the Assessment and Evaluation Staff, Office of Training, at the request of Chief, [REDACTED] revealed a need for centralized and coordinated efforts on two fronts: a) the integration of information, and b) the development of policy. The referenced study included a recommendation that this centralization be assigned to the IAC. It has been learned subsequently by the A & E Staff that such responsibility is not within the purview of the IAC, although the task envisaged remains of paramount importance.

25X1A8a

2. It is, therefore, suggested that you may wish to present to the National Security Council the need for such centralization of effort on the brainwashing problem, specifically calling for the establishment of a board whose responsibility would encompass the following areas:

a. Summarize periodically the intelligence "take" on brainwashing as practiced by the opposition.

b. Summarize all pertinent research efforts currently being carried on in friendly and denied areas designed to understand involuntary re-education practices.

c. Identify problems in involuntary re-education not being attacked by research means or receiving inadequate research attention and recommend projects to cover same.

Document No. \_\_\_\_\_  
No Change in Status ☐  
☐ Rejected  
Class. Change ☐  
Next Review Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: MAR 70-9  
JAN 1979  
By: *026*

*P989*

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

EO-8378

**SUBJECT: Brainwashing**

d. Develop and recommend policies concerning the treatment of brainwashed persons returned by the opposition.

25X1C

f. Develop and recommend policies concerning defensive measures to be taken against brainwashing.

SIGNED

**MATTHEW BAIRD**  
Director of Training

25X1A9a

OTR/A&ES/[REDACTED]/MB:lbc

**Distribution:**

Orig. & 1 - Addressee (for'd to [REDACTED] for DDCI) \*  
1 - DTR  
1 - A&ES/TR ✓

25X1A9a

\*The following was indicated on routing sheet:-----

"On 22 June 1955 a copy of a memo to DCI on "Brainwashing" was forwarded to DDCI, along with a copy of the study. DDCI recently returned these to OTR with the following comments: 'I have difficulty in seeing what is needed at the present time at IAC level. See E, page 24.' The attached is in reply to these comments. The course of procedure was suggested to us by

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]"/s/MBaird

- 2 -

~~SECRET~~